ARTICLES

To be inquired of by the

CHURCH-WARDENS

AND

QUESTMEN

Of every Parish in the next Metropolitical Visitation to be made by His Grace

MICHAEL

Now Lord *Arch-Bishop* of

ARMAGH,

Lord Primate and Metropolitan of all

IRELAND

And Lord high Chancellor of the same

DUBLIN,

Printed by *Benjamin Tooke* and *John Crook*, Printers to the Kings Most Excellent Majestie, at His Majesties Printing-house in *Skinner-row*. 1679.

The form of the Oath to be taken by the Church wardens and Queſtmen in every Pariſh immediately before their Preſentments

YOU, and every of you ſhall ſwear, that you ſhall one inquiry and true preſentment make accordingly to the Articles given you in charge, of all ſuch crimes, faults, and defaults, as have been committed in your Pariſh: And of all ſuch perſons, as are or have been vehemently ſuſpected or defamed, to have committed any ſuch crimes, faults, or defaults. You ſhall neither preſent any for hatred, malice, or any other ſiniſter reſpect, nor ſpare any for fear, favour, or reward, but diſcharge your conſciences, as men fearing God, for the reformation of ſin and wickedneſs, and the advancement of Godlineſs and Virtue. So help you God.

BRITISH MUSEUM

I.

Concerning RELIGION AND CHURCH-GOVERNMENT.

*I*mprimis, Do you know any that do refuse to receive or approve the Articles of Religion agreed upon in the Convocation holden at LONDON: Anno Domini 1562, and received here in the Convocation begun at DUBLIN, Anno Domini 1634: or have you heard of any, who have traduced or spoken against the same:

2. Also do you know or have you heard of any person within your parish, that doth acknowledge any manner of obedience or subjection to be due to any Forraign power in causes Ecclesiasticall or that either by word or writing hath maintained, that the Kings power within this Realm of IRELAND, and all other his Dominions and Countreys is not the highest power under God, to whom all men by Gods Lawes owe all loyaltie and obedience; and to no other Power or Potentate upon earth:

3 Are there in your Parish any, who have traduced or spoken against the prescript form of Divine Service contained in the Book of Common-Prayer; or against the form of Consecrating and ordering our Bishops and other Ministers; or have maintained that the Churches established under this Government be not true Churches; or do refuse to joyn with them in Christian profession.

4 Is the Lords-day, and other Holy days appointed by the orders of this Church duly kept and observed.

II.

Concerning Parish Churches and Chappels.

5. Is your Parish Church or Chappel kept in due reparation; the windows well-glazed, and the floors kept plain and even; and is your Church-yard well and sufficiently fenced and maintained with walls, rayles or pales, as hath been heretofore accustomed.

6. Have you in your said Church or Chappel a fair Communion Table with a decent Carpet and a fair Linnen-cloth for the covering of the same, a Silver Cup with a cover, and a Stoop or Flagon of Pewter (if not of purer mettall) for the celebration of the holy Comunion.

7. Have you in your Church or Chappel two books of Common Prayer (one for the Minister, and another for the Clerk) a Bible of the last Translation, the Book of Canons agreed upon in the convocation begun at Dublin Anno 1634. and a Table of the degrees of Marriage prohibited by the Lawes of God.

8 Have

8. Have you a sure Coffer with three locks and keys (whereof one remaineth with the Minister, the other two with the Church-wardens) and a parchment-Book therein to be kept for the registring of every Christning, Wedding, and Buriall within your Parish: And doth the Minister every Sabbath day, in the presence of the Church-wardens record in the said Book the names and surnames of all persons Christned in the said Parish (together with the names and surnames of their Parents) and also the names and surnames of all persons Married or Buryed the week before; together with the day and year of every such Marriage, Christning, and Buriall.

9. Have you a strong Chest, with a hole in the upper part thereof (having three keys, to be kept as aforesaid) fastned in the most convenient place, that the Parishioners may put thereinto their Alms for their poor neighbours.

10. Do you know of any that hath shed bloud, or stricken or quarrelled with any person in your Church or Church-yard.

III.

Concernig Ministers.

11. Is the Benefice within your parish a Parsonage Vicarage, or Prebend? who is the Incumbent there: what Tythes, Glebe-lands, or other rights or possessions are thereunto belonging: You are to bring a true note, or Terrier of the same unto Us at our said Visitation.

12. Doth your Parson, Vicar, or Curate duly every Sunday, and Holy-day, and other times appointed do his duty, in reading distinctly and fully Divine Service, and (as occasion requireth) administring the Sacraments; according to the form prescribed in the Book of Common-Prayer.

13 Doth your Minister begin and end Divine Service at due and convenient hours, and doth he examin and instruct the youth of the parish every Sunday in the Catechism set forth in the Book of Common-Prayer, for half an hour before Evening Prayer.

14 How many Benefices or Ecclesiasticall promotions hath your Parson or Vicar; and how far distant are they the one from the other; what Chappells hath he to his Cures belonging; By what names are they called; and how and by whom are they served.

15 Doth your Minister Preach frequently according to the Canon in the Church where he is resident? and if not; do you know that he hath any just impediment for the same.

16 Doth your Minister teach any vain Opinions, Heresies, or Popish errors, disagreeing from the Articles of Religion generally received in the Churches of England, and Ireland? And do you know, or have you heard any Preacher in the pulpit particularly impugne or confute any doctrine delivered by any other preacher in the same Church, or in any other near adjoyning; or otherwise make any publick opposition unto him; And have you acquainted the Bishop of the Diocels therewith.

17 Doth your Minister or proprietary (if the Benefice be impropriate) allow a competent maintenance to the Curat, who supplyeth that charge; and what doth he allow him; Is the Curate licensed by the Bishop; And how many Churches or Chappells doth he serve in one day; and how far distant are they one from the others?

18 Hath your Minister denyed or neglected to visit the sick or to Christen or Burry any, when he hath been lawfully and conveniently required thereunto?

19 Hath

19 Hath he marryed any in any other place, save in the face of the Church, and at any other time, then between the hours of eight and twelve in the forenoon.

20 Doth your Minister give warning publickly in the Church at Morning Prayer the Sunday before the Communion is to be administred to the end the communicants may the better prepare themselves thereunto; or hath he admitted any known impenitent notorious offendors to the participation of the same; and doth he celebrate the Holy Communion so often, that every parishioner may receive thrice in the year at the least.

21 Hath he admitted any to be Marryed, or to be Godfather or Godmother at the Baptisme of any child, or to receive the Holy Communion: before they can say the Articles of the Beleef, the Lords Prayer, and the Ten Commandments in such a Language as they understand; or before they have received Confirmation according to the Rite of the Church?

22 Doth your Minister confer with Recusants within his Parish, to recall them from their ignorance and errours Is he of a good and sober conversation: Or otherwise doth he give himself to any base or servil labour, to playing at Dice, cards or tables, or any other game unbeseeming his function; Is he a common resorter to Taverns or Alehouses, a great drinker, a Simoniacall person, a known Usurer, a quarrellous or contentious person, or otherwise defamed; Doth he also go gravely and decently in his apparell; according as the Canons do prescribe.

IV.

Concerning Cathedrall Churches, Deans and Prebendaries.

23. Whether the Cathedrall Church be in good repair? if not, when was the cause or occasion thereof, and what means are used for repair thereof, and on whom doth the reparation thereof lie? What Tithes or Rents do belong unto it? who is the yearly receiver thereof, and how is the same bestowed?

24. Doth your Dean reside in the Cathedrall Church fourscore and ten dayes at the least in every year; Hath he any house, or ground to build an house upon, belonging to his Church; and doth he keep good Hospitality during the time of his residence?

25. Do your Dean and Prebendaries preach in their own Persons (or by their substitutes, when they are lawfully absent) as often as by the Ordinance and Custom of their Church they are required: and in those other places and Churches also, whence they or the Cathedrall to which they belong do receive any yearly rents or profits?

V.

Concerning the Parishioners.

26. Are there any in your Parish, who are suspected to be of no Religion, meer Atheists, not adhering to any Church, or any that do wilfully maintain and defend any Heresy, errour or

or opinion contrary to the Word of God? and have any gone about to seduce others from the truth of Religion taught and professed in our Church, or spoken slightly or disgracefully of any Ceremony or Rites established by Law in this Church of Ireland?

27. Are there in your Parish any, that (in contempt of their own Parish-Church) do resort to any other Church or Chappel?

28. Are there in your Parish any who upon the Sunday or other allowed Holy days, do use their manual labour? or any that Buy or Sell, or frequent Taverns or Ale-houses, in time of Divine Service & preaching upon those days for those times?

29. Is there in your Parish any that, hath disturbed or hindred the Minister in the time of Divine Service or Sermon, or otherwise offended the people by walking talking, and laughing or any other noise, unseemly gestures or clamour? Or that bring to the Church with them Hawks with bells, or ill nurtured Children which cannot be kept quiet in their seats without running up and down.

30. Have there any Bastards or base begotten Children been born, or are nursed within your Parish, since the last Visitation? Present the Names of the reputed Parents.

31. Are there any in your Parish that live together as man and wife, and yet are publickly suspected not to be married or to have another Husband or wife.

32. Are there any in your Parish who being under the government of their parents or others, have made private Contracts of matrimony? not calling there unto two or more witnesses, nor having the consent of their parents, or such others under whose government they are.

IV.

Concerning Cathedrall Churches, Deans and Prebendaries.

23. Whether the Cathedrall Church be in good repair? if not, when was the cause or occasion thereof, and what means are used for repair thereof, and on whom doth the reparation thereof lie? What Tithes or Rents do belong unto it? who is the yearly receiver thereof, and how is the same bestowed?

24. Doth your Dean reside in the Cathedrall Church fourscore and ten dayes at the least in every year; Hath he any house, or ground to build an house upon, belonging to his Church; and doth he keep good Hospitality during the time of his residence;

25. Do your Dean and Prebendaries preach in their own Persons (or by their substitutes, when they are lawfully absent) as often as by the Ordinance and Custom of their Church they are required; and in those other places and Churches also, whence they or the Cathedrall to which they belong do receive any yearly rents or profits?

V.

Concerning the Parishioners.

26. Are there any in your Parish, who are suspected to be of no Religion, meer Atheists, not adhering to any Church, or any that do wilfully maintain and defend any Heresy, errour or

or opinion contrary to the Word of God? and have any gone about to seduce others from the truth of Religion taught and professed in our Church, or spoken slightly or disgracefully of any Ceremony or Rites established by Law in this Church of Ireland?

27. Are there in your Parish any, that (in contempt of their own Parish-Church) do resort to any other Church or Chappell?

28. Are there in your Parish any who upon the Sunday or other allowed Holy days, do use their manual labour? or any that Buy or Sell, or frequent Taverns or Ale-houses in time of Divine Service & preaching upon those days or those times?

29. Is there in your Parish any that, hath disturbed or hindred the Minister in the time of Divine Service or Sermon, or otherwise offended the people by walking talking, and laughing or any other noise, unseemly gestures or clamour? Or that bring to the Church with them Hawks with bells, or ill nurtured Children which cannot be kept quiet in their seats without running up and down.

30. Have there any Bastards or base begotten Children been born, or are nursed within your Parish, since the last visitation? Present the names of the reputed Parents.

31. Are there any in your Parish that live together as man and wife, and yet are vehemently suspected not to be married or to have another Husband or wife.

32. Are there any in your Parish who being under the government of their parents or others, have made privy Contracts of matrimony? not calling there unto two or more witnesses, nor having the consent of their parents, or such others under whose government they are.

33. Are there any in your Parish marryed within the degrees prohibited? or without their Baines thrice solemnly published in their a Parish Church, upon three several Sundays or Holy-days? or a Licence first had from the Ordinary or Judge of the faculties? or at any other time, then between the houres of eight and twelve, in the forenoon?

34. What marryed persons in your parish have bin divorced and since marryed with others, for these three years last past? By whose sentence were they divorced? and by whose licence? and by whom were they so marryed? Declare your knowledg, in the premisses, and what you have credibly heard, and present those who have so sentenced, licenced, or marryed without due authority?

35. Are there any in your Parish which are excommunicated? and how long have they stood so? Are there any who are reputed, or known to be common Drunkards, Swearers Blasphemers Incestuous persons, Adulterers, Fornicators, Bawds, pirjured persons Extortioners or oppressors: Common-scolds, Brawlers, Slanderers, Make-bates, sowers of discord between party and party, especially between man and wife? Or that have used Charms, spells, sorcery or Witchcraft? or are guilty of any other notorious offence belonging to Ecclesiastical cognizance, or are suspected or defamed to be guilty of the same?

36. Hath any person within your parish contemned, or abused by word or deed, any minister of the church?

37. Do any in your parish deny or detain their paiment duly rated towards the reparation and furnishing of the church or any other necessary pious use?

38. Have any within your parish medled with the Goods or Chattels of parties deceased, without licence first had by letters of Administration or otherwise from the Ordinary?

39 Do

39. Do you know in your parish any Executors of the goods of persons deceased, that have detained any Orphans goods, or Legacies bequeathed or appointed for the repairing of Churches or High-wayes, finding of poor Schollars, marring of poor Maidens, or such other charitable Deeds; and not imployed the said goods or Legacies according to their authority given and charge enjoyned?

VI

Concerning Parish-Clerks, Church-Wardens and School Masters.

40. Is your parish clerk of competent age and skill for the executing of his office? Is he resident, and doth he diligently perform his duty in his own person? Is he conformable to the Orders of the Church, and of honest life and sober conversation?

41. Were your Church-wardens and Sidemen duely chosen at the time, and after the manner appointed? namely upon Munday or Tuesday in Easter week, by the joint consent of the Ministers and Parishioners or otherwise, the one by the Minister, and the other by the Parishioners? And were they sworn the next Consistory day after their election before the Bishop or his Chancelor? or are there any so chosen, who have refused to undertake that Office?

42. Have the former church-wardens, at the going forth out of their Office, given up a true account of what moneys they have received and disbursed? Have they brought in a Register of all christenings, marriages and Burials, within the year of their Office; that the same may faithfully be preserved in the Bishops Registry?

43. Do the Church-wardens, with the advice and direction of the Minister, provide against every Communion a sufficient quantity of fine white Bread, and of good and wholsome Wine, for the number of the Communicants that shall from time to time receive? And do, they perform all other duties, as well in the Church as without, required of them by the Canons and constitutions of this Church?

44. What School-masters or Ushers have you in your Parish, who teach Schooll either publiquely or privately without Licence; and by whom are they harboured?

VII

Concerning Ecclesiasticall Courts and their Officers.

45. Is your Chancellor, Commissary, Officiall, or Surrogate reasonably well practised in the course of the Ecclesiasticall and civil Lawes; and such an one as is twenty six years old at least and touching whose life and conversation no evil report hath gone? And doth he give any yearly Rent, sum or summes of money, or other consideration for his exercising of Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction, to any person or persons whatsoever?

46. Do such as exercise Ecclesiasticall Jurisdiction deliver to the Church-wardens of every Parish such Bookes of Articles as any of them shall require for the year following; to ground their Presentments upon, at such times as they are to exhibit them?

47. Doth any Ecclesiasticall Judge suffer any general Process Nomine Quorum of be sent out of his courts wherein the names of all such as are thereby to be cited are not first entred by the hand of the Register or his Deputy? and are such Processes and Names first subscribed by the Judge or his Deputy, and his Seal affixed thereunto?

48. What

48. What persons in your Parish, have goods or chattells have dyed since the ninth of February 1660: and by whom was the administration of the said goods granted, and to whom?

49. Do you know any person appearing upon a citation, that hath not been dismissed with his costs if the next court day after there have not been Articles or a Libell put in against him And do you know of any, that have been excommunicated upon the first citation?

50. Hath any person executing Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction expedited any judiciall Act without the Register of the Court or his lawfull Deputy, or (in their absence) in the presence of such persons as by Law are thereunto allowed?

51. Do you know or have you heard of any exercising Ecclesiasticall Jurisdiction, that useth more then one Seal, for the sealing of all matters incident to his Office?

52. Do those that exercise Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction appoint such meet places for the keeping of their Courts (by the assignment or approbation of the Bishop of the Diocess) as shall be convenient for the entertainment of those who are to make their appearence there, and most indifferent for their travells? And do they keep and end their Courts in such convenient time, as every man may return homewards, in as due season as may be?

53 Hath anie Judge Ecclesiasticall, or his Surrogate yeilded to the probation of any Testament, or to the granting of an Administration of the goods of any person dieing intestate before the Executor or Suite for such Administration hath first in his own person and not by Proctor) taken the Oath accustomed in these cases?

54. Do you know or have you heard, that anie Register or his Deputie hath received any certificate without the consent

43. Do the Church-wardens, with the advice and direction of the Minister provide against every Communion a sufficient quantity of fine white Bread, and of good and wholsome Wine, for the number of the Communicants that shall from time to time receive? And do, they perform all other duties, as well in the Church as without, required of them by the Cannons and constitutions of this Church?

44. What School-masters or Ushers have you in your Parish, who teach Schooll either publiquely or privately without Licence; and by whom are they harboured?

VIII

Concerning Ecclesiasticall Courts and their Officers.

45. Is your Chancellor, Commissary, Officiall, or Surrogate reasonably well practised in the course of the Ecclesiasticall and civil Lawes; and such an one as is twenty six years old at least and touching whose life and conversation no evil report hath gone? And doth he give any yearly Rent, sum or summes of money, or other consideration for his exercising of Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction, to any person or persons whatsoever?

46. Do such as exercise Ecclesiasticall Jurisdiction deliver to the Church-wardens of every Parish such Bookes of Articles as any of them shall require for the year following; to ground their Presentments upon, at such times as they are to exhibit them?

47. Doth any Ecclesiasticall Judge suffer any general Process Nomine Quorum or be sent out of his court; wherein the names of all such as are thereby to be cited are not first entred by the hand of the Register or his Deputy? and are such Processes and Names first subscribed by the Judge or his Deputy, and his Seal affixed thereunto?

48. What

48. What persons in your Parish, have goods or chattells have dyed since the ninth of February 1660: and by whom was the administration of the said goods granted, and to whom?

49. Do you know any person appearing upon a citation, that hath not been dismissed with his costs: if the next court day after there have not been Articles or a Libell put in against him And do you know of any, that have been excommunicated upon the first citation?

50. Hath any person executing Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction expedited any judiciall Act without the Register of the Court or his lawfull Deputy, or (in their absence) in the presence of such persons as by Law are thereunto allowed?

51. Do you know or have you heard of any exercising Ecclesiasticall Jurisdiction, that useth more then one Seal, for the sealing of all matters incident to his Office;

52. Do those that exercise Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction appoint such meet places for the keeping of their Courts, (by the assignment or approbation of the Bishop of the Diocess) as shall be convenient for the entertainment of those who are to make their appearence there, and most indifferent for their travells: And do they keep and end their Courts in such convenient time, as every man may return homewards, in as due season as may be?

53 Hath anie Judge Ecclesiasticall, or his Surrogate yeilded to the probation of any Testament, or to the granting of an Administration of the goods of any person dieing intestate; before the Executor or Suite for such Administration hath first in his own person (and not by Proctor) taken the Oath accustomed in these cases?

54. Do you know or have you heard, that anie Register or his Deputie hath received any certificate without the consent

of the Judge of the court? or willingly omitted to cause any persons (cited to appear upon any Court day) to be called? or unduly deferred the examination of witnesses to be examined by a day assigned by the Judge? or hath falsifyed any Acts or Records, or hath done any other thing whereby the Judge of the Court or his proceeding may be defamed?

55. What persons in your Parish since the first of September 1661 have been married together, by virtue of any Licence?

56. Do you know or have you heard, that any Proctor doth retain causes without lawfull assignment of the parties or doth refuse to take the Oath De Calumnia, wheresoever in the suit the same shall be tendred before sentence?

57. Hath any Apparitor cited any within your Parish to appear in any Ecclesiasticall Court without lawfull process? Or hath molested any without just cause and grounds upon bare suspition without presentment made or publike fame preceding Hath he exacted more Fees then his due? Or hath he taken Bribes to defeat the Court, and to release any Delinquents?

58. Hath any Officer or Substitute in any Ecclesiasticall Court fraudulently delayed or betrayed any cause brought before them? or exacted more Fees then are due? or have taken any Bribe or money under hand, to wink at, and to suffer offences to escape unpunished?

59. Is there in your parish any other matter or cause of the Cognizance of the Church above not expressed, worthy presentment in your judgment? If any such matter or cause there be? you are charged likewise to present the same, as you are the rest, by virtue of you Oath.

FINIS.

BRITISH 8 00 83 MUSEUM

Imprimatur præcedens Articulorum Libellus prout nunc existunt per nos immutati.

Mich: Armachanus.